Customer No. 22,852 U.S. Application No. 09/691,944 Attorney Docket No. 05725.0776

application surface and being axially moveable between a first position wherein the second end portion extends out of the reservoir through the opening, and a second position wherein the second end portion is at least substantially contained in the reservoir, the applicator member including at least one block formed of at least one absorbent material capable of being at least partially compressed; and

an elastically compressible support supporting the applicator member in the reservoir, the support having a compressibility greater than the compressibility of the application member,

wherein the support includes a stack of at least two blocks of elastically deformable material, the stack having a compressibility that is greater at an end of the stack adjacent the reservoir than at an opposite end of the stack.

80. (Amended) An applicator device for a liquid product, the applicator comprising:

a reservoir for containing the liquid product, the reservoir having an opening; and an absorbent member provided in fluid communication with the reservoir, the absorbent member comprising at least two portions, a first application portion configured to apply the liquid product to a surface to be treated, and a second support portion configured to elastically support the first portion, wherein the first portion has a different density than the second portion,

wherein the second support portion includes a stack of at least two blocks of elastically deformable material, the stack having a compressibility that is greater at an

Sub C1

DE

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT& DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com

Customer No. 22,852 U.S. Application No. 09/691,944 Attorney Docket No. 05725.0776

US.

end of the stack adjacent the reservoir than at an opposite end of the stack adjacent the application portion.

306c1)

85. (New) The applicator device of claim 1, wherein when the second end portion is in the first position, the application member is in flow communication with the reservoir.

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT & DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com